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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to MS Amendment, the Patent and Trademark Office, facsimile no. (571) 273-8300, on the date shown below.

Dated: December 12, 2005 Signature: (Norman Green)

Docket No.: 322732000401

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Yoichi TAKAHAMA et al.

Application No.: 10/028,172 Confirmation No.: 2837

Filed: December 21, 2001 Art Unit: 1648

For: DIAGNOSTIC REAGENT FOR HEPATITIS C

VIRUS INFECTION

Examiner: Bao Qun Li

AMENDMENT IN RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION

MS Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the non-final Office Action ("OA") dated July 13, 2005, for which a response was initially due on October 13, 2005. Filed herewith is a Petition and fee for a two month extension of time, thereby extending the deadline for response to December 13, 2005. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 5 of this paper.

The following documents are enclosed herewith: Transmittal letter, Fee Transmittal, Petition for a Two Month Extension of Time; and Fax cover sheet.

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